

Mr. Chris Howard  
President, Hospital Operations  
SSM Health Care  
477 N. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63141-7832

Dear Mr. Howard:

Thank you for your letter dated March 12, 2014, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7, about our work at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. My EPA Region 7 colleagues and I understand your concerns about the pace of work at the West Lake site. I can assure EPA takes the responsibility of ensuring the health and safety of this community very seriously.

I have carefully considered the recommendations of federal, state and local officials and concerned citizens like you that EPA explore working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I have recently spoken with Colonel Christopher Hall, commanding the St. Louis District of the Army Corps of Engineers, about ways in which his Corps District can assist the EPA in discharging this Agency's duties at the site. As these conversations continue I look forward to keeping you and your fellow citizens advised of the progress we are making in the response to your concerns.

Please be assured that the EPA, working with our federal and state partners, including the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, continues to review the health evidence at West Lake. To date, the evidence establishes that West Lake and the adjoining Bridgton Landfill continue to be managed in a way that protects the health and safety of Missourians who live and work nearby.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to continuing our dialogue on this important issue. The EPA remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of the West Lake community.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 913-551-7006, or your staff may contact \_\_\_\_\_ at 913-551-\_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Karl Brooks